

SENATE BILL 7

By Green

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;  
Title 50 and Title 71, relative to capping the total  
value of certain public assistance at the level of  
average household income in the state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 10, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "public  
assistance":

(1) Means benefits received under:

(A) The Tennessee Employment Security Law, compiled in title  
50, chapter 7;

(B) The Food Stamp Act of 1971, compiled in title 71, chapter 5,  
part 3; and

(C) Subsidy certificates for child care administered by the  
department of human services; and

(2) Does not include benefits received under:

(A) Pre-kindergarten provided under title 49;

(B) The medical assistance program operated in title 71, chapter  
5;

(C) The CoverKids Act of 2006, compiled in title 71, chapter 3,  
part 11; and

(D) The Families First Act of 1996, compiled in title 71, chapter 3,  
part 1.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the total value of public assistance in all programs administered by the state received by a household shall not exceed the median household income for this state as determined by the United States bureau of census for the prior year in a manner determined by the commissioner of finance and administration. A household shall become ineligible for any further public assistance in any fiscal year once the household reaches the threshold of the median household income.

(c)

(1) The department of finance and administration shall develop a system for calculating the value of public assistance and monitoring the receipt of public assistance by each affected household in the state.

(2) The department shall develop a procedure for halting the payment of further public assistance by any administering state agency for a household that has reached the threshold established in subsection (b).

(3) The department shall develop a procedure for reinstituting public assistance to eligible families at the beginning of a new fiscal year.

(d) If necessary, the commissioner of finance and administration shall seek appropriate waivers from federal agencies in order to implement this section.

(e) The commissioner of finance and administration may promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section. All rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. For rulemaking purposes, this act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.